

The District 3 Slate

September 2002

County Supervisor Pam Slater

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- Supervisor Pam Slater



County Supervisor
Pam Slater

Every day it seems we hear, read or see something about how dismal things are in our piece of paradise. The state budget stalemate, news of layoffs, and the volatile stock market combine to raise our anxiety.

Should we be worried? I don't believe so! Our local economy is strong and diversified; our region is one of the most sought-after places to live and work in the United States. San Diego is known for more than its beauty—we are renowned for our biotech, golf, agriculture and manufacturing industries as well as our commitment to our armed forces.

Due to the fiscal prudence embraced by this Board of Supervisors, the County of San Diego is in fantastic financial shape. This year's budget of \$3.92 billion contains an \$11 million reserve. Health and Human Services and Public Safety represent the largest expenditures, at \$1.6 billion and \$1 billion, respectively.

This county is recognized for its vision, leadership and fiscal stewardship. I am proud to be an integral part of this team.

Pam Slater

Highway 101 'Cleans' Up

Highway 101 is transforming itself from lost roadway to newly found scenic drive; from long-abused highway to a revitalized leisure drive through picturesque coastal towns.

To further this transformation, and promote our local economy, I have dedicated \$50,000 to the Highway 101 Beautification Committee for the continued restoration of the roadway between Encinitas and Del Mar. Five business organizations are securing funds on their own to match this commitment.

Highway 101 is undergoing a renaissance. People are finally realizing it is a classic journey harkening back to the innocence of the '60s. The coastal communities have



worked hard to revitalize their sections so Highway 101 returns to its former grandeur.

Each business organization – Solana Beach, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Del Mar and Encinitas, chambers, plus the Downtown Encinitas MainStreet Association (DEMA) – are awarded \$10,000 for signage, trees and other improvements.

Renovation efforts are most obvious in Encinitas, where a \$5.2 million streetscape project is nearing conclusion.

A five-block section is being transformed with new facades, street lights and landscaped medians that change the "feeling" of the downtown while subtly slowing traffic and inviting pedestrians to stroll the area.

Searching for a 'Purr'-fect Evening?

Then look no farther than "Feline Form — "A Celebration of the Cat," the Sept. 12 fund-raiser for the rebuilding of the North County Animal Shelter. The 5 p.m. event takes place at the San Diego Watercolor Society Gallery, 2400 Kettner Blvd. in San Diego, and features such noted artists as Bruce Duke, Jim Lewis, Catherine Perry and Angelika Villagrana. Tax-deductible donations are \$75 and patrons will be recognized for more generous contributions.

Attendees will meet the artists and be able to chat with the celebrity guests, including actress Tippi Hedren, president of The Roar Foundation-Shambala Preserve; James Darren, best known as "Moondoggie" in the Gidget film, and actresses Loretta Swit (M*A*S*H) and Bea Arthur (Golden Girls, Maude).

To secure your reservation, call the San Diego Film Commission at (619) 234-3456. Checks should be made to the North County Animal Shelter Building Fund.



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Center A Haven For Violence Victims

Name one all-too-common criminal act that tears at the fabric of society and it would be domestic violence. Escaping the web of domestic violence has been difficult for women and their children who do not know where to turn for help.

This will soon change for the better. The Board of Supervisors, at my urging, has agreed in principle to create a one-stop response center in North County to assist victims of domestic violence. This yet-to-be-sited office will be staffed in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, counselors and medical professionals with Palomar-Pomerado Hospital.

The concept is to have a

center where victims will meet with compassionate professionals trained to deal with the psychological trauma of abuse. The plan is to have this center close to the sexual assault forensic exam unit.

Why North County? Statistics show that four in 10 incidents of domestic violence occur in this region. The debut of the Family Violence Prevention Center will make it easier for women to get the immediate help they need to escape a violent situation.

Until the day arrives when such a center is no longer necessary in our society, it is our obligation to ensure women and their children are safely away from the specter of physical and/or sexual violence.



Smiles filled the room when Supervisor Slater was joined by children of the San Diego County Boys & girls Clubs when she gave the youth organization \$50,000 to renovate its facilities and modernize its computer lab. San Diego County operates branches in Encinitas, Solana Beach and Carmel Valley.

No Reason To Live In Fear Of Contacting West Nile Virus

By now I am sure you are worried about the outbreak of West Nile Virus that is working its way across our nation. Rest assured, not a single case of the virus has been reported in San Diego County.

Before nightmares of an "Outbreak" scenario sweep our region, you should know this simple fact: Less than 1 percent of infected people develop the severe illness that includes meningitis (inflammation of the spinal cord) or encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). This virus cannot be

spread person-to-person. It needs a carrier – usually a mosquito – to move from host to host.

West Nile virus has been infecting humans and animals since at least the 1930s, when its symptoms were diagnosed in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. It was first uncovered in the United States in New York City in 1999.

How bad is the West Nile outbreak? Put aside the headlines and consider these numbers: There have been less than 200

reported cases in 41 states. Of those, 12 resulted in death. Think about the millions of people who reside in the Midwest, in the South, and along the Eastern seaboard. Now try to imagine the millions upon millions of mosquitoes that also survive in those regions. When examined in this manner, this fact becomes obvious – this virus will never, ever, infect most people! Federal health authorities believe the virus will "burn" itself out this year.

Learn more about the West Nile Virus and the county's website at www.sandiegobugs.org.

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